



# Valley Flyers

*"Just Plane Fun!"*

885 Lancaster Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97317

January 2018



## Holiday Party

We had a wonderful Christmas Party this year as always. Thank you again to Joan and Vern for hosting us at their home, and thank you to everyone who came, and to everyone who brought food and drinks to make the party possible. We enjoyed a great dinner, and a fun white elephant gift exchange. It was great to see everyone again!



*Gathering before the white elephant gift exchange – Isaac Mosgrove*

## January Annual Club Meeting

We will have our annual club meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. It will be held at La Margarita Express, at 515 Chemeketa St NE, Salem. The club will provide soda drinks, but food is up to you. We have three positions up for election. This year we will be electing for the positions of President, Safety Officer and Treasurer. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, contact any board member and we would be happy to assist you and provide information on the position.

## Monthly Events

In January, we will do a flyout to Chehalis (KCLS) for dinner at the golf course. The restaurant there is excellent, and just across the street from the airport. We will leave Salem at 3 pm on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> for an early dinner. The restaurant is only open until 7, so we would prefer to arrive a little early. This event will be posted to the FATPNW facebook group, so we may get to meet some fellow pilots from around the northwest!

For February, we will have a flyout to Sunriver (S21) to enjoy the town. Sunriver is a beautiful town near the base of Mt. Bachelor. The flight there takes you over the Cascades and the Three Sisters. We will fly there on February 17<sup>th</sup>, leaving Salem at 10 am.



*Three Sisters coming back from Sunriver – Chris Eriksson*

## Flying New Years Resolutions

Well, with a New Year, it is a great time to set some goals for the next year. In order to become a better pilot, we should all be focusing to improve our skills, knowledge, and decision making. Below are some suggestions for ways to improve in 2018. So grab an instructor and go expand your skills!

### 1. Learn to fly a new plane

It is very easy to get into the habit of flying the same aircraft each time. But a great way to grow as a pilot is to learn new aircraft, whether that is a different 172, or learning the 182, or the Cherokee. It might even be learning an entirely different aircraft altogether.

### 2. Get a new endorsement

A great way to expand your skills can include obtaining a new endorsement, such as a high performance endorsement in our 182, a complex endorsement in a retractable aircraft nearby, or tailwheel endorsement in one of the conventional gear aircraft in the valley. Most endorsements don't take long to obtain, and

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can expose you to a new way of flying. Each have their own challenges, and offer great opportunities to learn.

### 3. Get a new certificate or rating

Very similar to a new endorsement, but with greater learning potential. With this one, you could learn a multi-engine aircraft, or learn to fly off the water in a sea plane. You could also learn to use the club aircraft in new ways by working on an instrument rating.



Seaplane on Lake Hood

### 4. Fly into Complex Airspace

Not all improvements are new ratings or aircraft. With Portland Airspace just to the north, take an opportunity to fly into Portland, and get airspace transition just over downtown Portland, or even ask for a few laps at PDX itself. Enjoy the long runways and massive airport. After 9 pm, Portland Approach is generally willing to let you make a few laps.

### 5. Become comfortable with new runways

Many pilots find they are only comfortable at long, paved runways in wide open valleys. Push your comfort level a little this year by making some regular trips to Lenhardt to land on the grass, or up to Chehalem to try a short runway, or even down to Oakridge to do some narrow valley flying.

It doesn't matter what skill you push, as long as you safely push your comfort to advance your skills. Make a choice to become a more capable pilot, and you will be safer for it.

## A Retired Giant

In 2017, the Boeing 747 was retired from the last US airlines. Both Delta and United retired their 747s, offering farewell flights to send off the behemoth plane. The 747 was designed in Seattle with its first

flight on February 9, 1969. Its construction necessitated building the world's largest building in Everett, WA. You can fly over Everett airport and see how massive this building really is. The original 747 was 225 ft long, and had a tail as tall as a six-story building. The 747 went through 21 different variants over the years, with its final variant being the 747-8. The 747-8 had its first flight in March of 2011. Forty-two years after the original model first left the ground, the final model had its first test. The 747-8 could carry almost 500 people, and had a range of over 8,000 nm at Mach 0.855.



United Airlines 747

Over 1500 of the 747s have been built since 1969, and are used to serve a wide variety of missions. It has carried people and cargo, carried the space shuttles on its back, become heavy cargo planes to carry parts of the 787, can fight forest fires, carries telescopes for scientific research, and is the aircraft currently used as Air Force One, among many other uses. With a max gross takeoff weight of nearly one million pounds, this plane truly has been a workhorse for its customers. Now with 2017 coming to an end, the Queen of the Skies has been retired from the US airline operators. This iconic aircraft has been the signature Jumbo Jet, and will always be an icon of aviation's greats.

## 2018 Competition

We are bringing back the old competition of who can visit the most different airports within the year. You can only count each airport you visit once. Also, you must make a landing at the airport to count it. Sharing the flight is encouraged, but both pilots must make landings to both count it. Instructors, where your student lands does not count toward your number! When you land at a new airport, email me at [Christopher.c.eriksson@gmail.com](mailto:Christopher.c.eriksson@gmail.com) with the new airports visited. Have fun and be safe!

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